In fact, a week back, they approached us from that region to move some of the bamboo for paper mills, as also cement and steel, which we had done. As I have already mentioned, because of the climatic conditions there, we take every step to provide better transport facilities in the region.

*348. The questioner (Shri K. Rama Mohan A. Rao) was absent. For answer *vide* page 36.]

*349. The questioner (Shri S.M. Laljan Basha) was absent. For answer *vide* page 37.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 350.

Programme for checking infant and maternal mortality

*350. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:†

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa Government proposes to launch a new programme with the assistance of World Bank to check the high infant and maternal mortality rate in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government also proposes to raise its sanitation standards and improve other health-care facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the action plan of the Centre to help this backward region to achieve these laudable goals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Yes, it is a fact that Orissa Government proposes to formulate a project on reduction of child mortality with the assistance of World Bank to check the high infant and maternal mortality rate in the State.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Ms. Pramila Bohidar.

The project proposal for reduction of child mortality is under formulation taking into account different components, such as improvement in the quality of ante-natal and post-natal care, training of tradational birth Attendants, improvement of routine immunization, strengthening the rural Health Infrastructure, improvement and co-ordination between the Health Workers and Anganwadi Workers, provision of Drugs at Sub-centre level, strengthening the Managemetn Information System relating to Health Sector, Improvement of Inter-sectoral Co-ordination for achieving the reduction in infant mortality rate. The formulation of the new programme is under progress. Specific details can be known only after the project has been finalized.

Government of India have recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care. The Mission seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. Orissa is one among the 18 States. The Mission also aims at achieving effective integration of health concerns with determinants of health like sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water through decentralized district plans.

The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme which focuses on reduction of infant and mortality rates is being implemented as a component of NRHM. The interventions for reducing child and infant mortality include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases, and due to Acute Respiratory Infections (ARIs), eradication of polio, prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and essential new born care. As a part of the second phase of RCH programme, the Integrated Management for Newborn and Childhood Illnesses is being implemented in the districts in a phased manner.

The interventions for improving maternal health are essential obstetric care, skilled attendance at delivery, promotion of institutional and safe delivery, emergency obstetric care, provision of referral services to pregnant women with complications of pregnancy and provision of assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families for institutional deliveries through the Janani Suraksha Yojana.

Rs. 40.5 crores have been released to Orissa for implementation of the above mentioned activities in the year 2005-06.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Sir, the maternal mortality rate in Orissa is very High. It is 361 per one lakh live births in Orissa, while it is only 76 in Tamil Nadu and 29 in Gujarat. Orissa is a backward State and does not have the required resources to upgrade its medical facilities to control this high rate. In this context, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what is the action plan of the Centre to extend the required help to Orissa State to control the high maternal mortality rate in Orissa.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, it is precisely for this that we have launched the National Rural Health Mission to bring down the infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate, in fact, the total fertility rate of the pupulation. These are going to be the three focuses of the National Rural Health Mission which I have already mentioned in the earlier Sessions. Sir, this is one of the biggest programmes in the health sector. We are now taking this programme to the villages where there is no infrastructure. One of the priorities is to bring down the infant mortality rate. Now, we are trying to mobilise institutional delivery and increasing the immunisation and, in fact, under the Janani Suraksha Programme we have said even the private sector could take up the delivery. Of course, today, the infant mortality rate is about 60 per thousand live births in the country. In Orissa, it is about 83 per thousand live births. Orissa has the highest IMR in the country. Sir, within the infant mortality rate, the neo-natal mortality rate is quite high. In the country, the neo-natal mortality rate is about 37 per thousand live births, that is, within the first 28 days after the birth of the baby. Then, within that, fifty per cent of the neo-netal mortality rate is in the first three days. That is the most important period. That is why both the mother and child care is the main component of the reduction of the infant mortality. We are concentrating on this in our Rural Health Mission. That is one of the priorities that we have taken up.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: What are the details of the Centrally-funded projects that have been launched to control the high infant mortality and maternal mortality rates in the States?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I have already answered the question. But, then again, like in the National Rural Health Mission, now

we are focussing on 18 States and Orissa is one of the major States. In fact, yesterday also, to supplement the National Rural Health Mission's motive, we have announced the building up of six AIIMS-like institutions; one is in Orissa. In the Reproductive and Child Health Programme one of the main components is the Integrated Management of Neo-Natal and Childhool Illness, which is again supported by the World Health Organiation and we are going to all the villages for giving neo natal and emergency maternity care. And, in fact, we are starting the first referral units where you have emergency blood storage capacities in the PHCs and the CHCs. We have targeted about 2000 of them and, today, approximately, more than a thousand of them are being implemented and we are funding the States. As far as the community health centres are concerned, we are literally giving them about Rs. 20 lakh to each, we are taking two community health centres in each district, every year. For that, we are putting up Indian public health standards. All the community heatlh centres should have these sets of standards, these specialists, these equipments and these drugs. Sir, we have launched an NRHM last year. So, it will take, at least, another six months to completely implement this programme. I would like to assure the House that within the next three years, India will see a drastic reduction in the infant mortality rate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Quality of fruits and vetegables supplied through Mother Dairy outlets

*343. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of vegetables and fruits particularly onions and potatoes suplies through the Mother Dairy outlets in Delhi is inferior;

(b) whether any check is exercised by the senior officers of his Ministry on the officials of the organization responsible for procurement;